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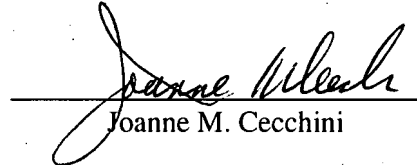
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PRELIMINARY REMARKS

These Preliminary Remarks are in reply to the Final Office Action mailed December 29, 2006 in the subject application and accompany the enclosed Request for Continued Examination.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 2 of this paper.